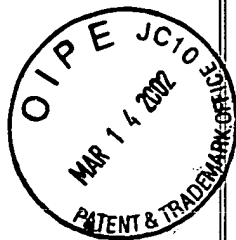


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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 05711.0122

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Application of:

Ryoichiro UEHARA

Application No.: 09/963,577

Filed: September 27, 2001

For: BUCKLE

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)  
) Group Art Unit: 3626  
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) Examiner: Unassigned  
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)

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

An English language abstract is enclosed for the Japanese document No. 9-135709. In addition, along with the French reference 2783679, Applicants submit U.S. Patent No. 6,247,213, which is from the same family.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed

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documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 14, 2002

By: 

Barry D. Biddle  
Reg. No. 44,033

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